

Claims

1. A feed control assembly for feeding a cable on to a rotatable reel comprising,
primary guide means for controlling the location of the cable as it feeds on to
5 the reel, and
a drive assembly arranged to reciprocate the primary guide means as the cable
feeds through the primary guide means.
2. A feed control assembly according to claim 1 comprising a transverse member
10 extending generally parallel to an axis of the rotatable reel the primary guide means
being reciprocable along the transverse member and a motor is provided to rotate the
rotatable reel and drive the drive assembly.
3. A feed control assembly according to claim 2 wherein the transverse member
15 comprises a housing for a driven endless chain which acts as the drive assembly to
reciprocate the primary guide means and the motor comprises a hydraulic motor.
4. A feed control assembly according to claim 3 wherein the primary guide
means comprises a guide member mounted on a guide support, and the guide support
20 is telescopically slidable on the transverse member.
5. A feed control means according to claim 4 wherein the guide support includes
a slot for receiving a pin attached to the driven endless chain.
- 25 6. A feed reel assembly comprising,
a feed control assembly according to claim 1,
a mounting assembly for rotatably mounting the rotatable wheel, and
hydraulic drive means arranged to drive the drive assembly and rotatable
wheel.

7. A cable laying vehicle for feeding cable on to and off a rotatable reel as the vehicle travels along the ground comprising the feed reel assembly of claim 1 mounted on the cable laying vehicle.
- 5 8. A feed control assembly according to claim 1 wherein,
the transverse member comprises a shaft having a shaft axis,
shaft drive means are provided for rotating the shaft about the shaft axis,
the drive assembly is mounted on the shaft and arranged to be driven in a
reciprocating manner along the shaft between two travel end points by the rotation of
10 the shaft, and
switch means are arranged so as to change a setting of the drive assembly to
cause it to reverse direction when it reaches each of the travel end points.
- 15 9. A feed control assembly according to claim 8 wherein the mounting assembly
comprises a rolling ring drive.
- 10 10. A feed control assembly according to claim 8 comprising a stabilizing rail
extending generally parallel to the shaft axis, and stabilizing means extending
between the drive assembly and stabilizing rail the stabilizing means being arranged
20 to prevent the drive assembly from rotating.
11. A feed control assembly according to claim 8 wherein the primary guide
means is mounted on the drive assembly.
- 25 12. A feed control assembly according to claim 8 wherein the mounting assembly
comprises a rolling ring drive, the feed control assembly comprises a stabilizing rail
extending generally parallel to the shaft axis and stabilizing means extending between
the drive assembly and stabilizing rail, and the primary guide means is mounted on
the drive assembly.
- 30 13. A module comprising a rotatable reel and a feed control assembly according to
claim 12 constructed so that the module may be removably lifted onto the tray of a

vehicle and the rotatable reel is mounted on a mounting assembly which is detachably secured to the module.

14. A feed control assembly according to claim 8 comprising a hydraulic motor
5 for rotating the rotatable reel and driving the drive assembly.

15. A cable laying vehicle for feeding cable on and off a rotatable reel as the vehicle travels along the ground comprising the feed reel assembly of claim 8 mounted on the cable laying vehicle.

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16. A cable laying vehicle for feeding cable on and off a rotatable reel as the vehicle travels along the ground, the vehicle having a driver's cab with a roof and a tray, comprising the feed assembly of claim 12 mounted on the tray and secondary guide means constructed so as to guide the cable over the roof of the driver's cab and
15 through the primary guide means as the cable laying vehicle moves forward to pick up cable from the ground.

17. A cable laying vehicle according to claim 16 wherein the secondary guide means are mounted on the roof.

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18. A feed controlled assembly according to claim 1 substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any one of the accompanying drawings.

19. A cable laying vehicle according to claim 7 substantially as hereinbefore
25 described with reference to any one of the accompanying drawings.